DARK HORSE COMICS
ALIENS: ALCHEMY 1 OF 3
$2.95 US
$4.15 CAN
ARCUDI
COBBEN
ALIENS™
Alchemy
DIRECT SALES
00111
7 61568 95036 6

ALIENS™

Alchemy

writer
JOHN ARCUDI

artist
RICHARD CORBEN

colorist
JOHN POUND

letterer
GARY FIELDS

cover artist
RICHARD CORBEN

designer
JULIE E. GASSAWAY

assistant editor
DAVID LAND

editor
PHILIP AMARA

publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

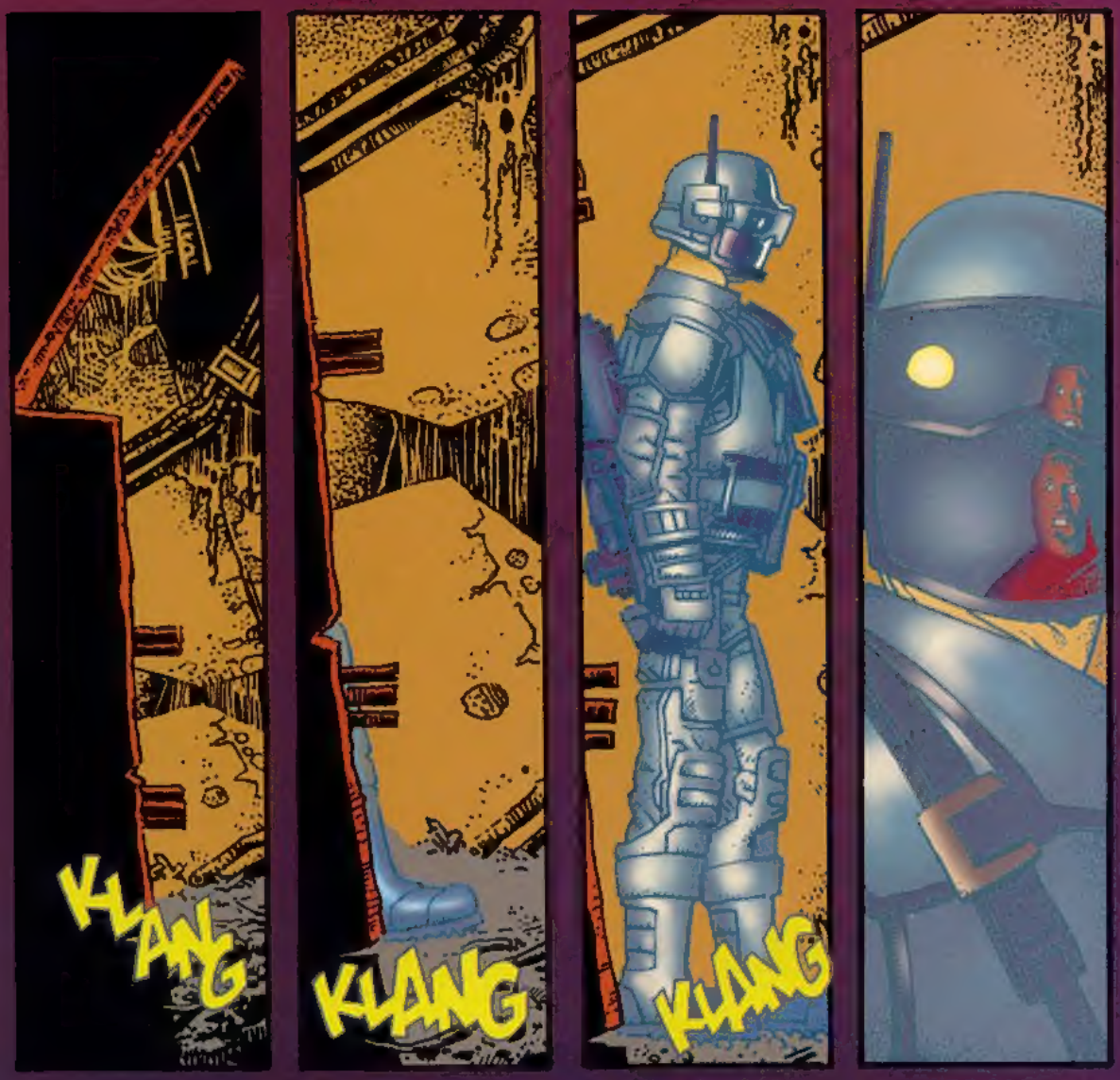
Aliens: Alchemy #1, October 1997.
Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222. Aliens™ & © 1986, 1997 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All rights reserved. TM indicates a trademark of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

special thanks to **MAURY McINTYRE** at 20th Century Fox Licensing

ALIEN designed by **H.R. GIGER**

PRINTED IN CANADA

A CRISIS OF FAITH. THAT'S WHAT HE CALLED IT.
"IT MEANS THAT YOU'RE THINKING," HE SAID. "IT MEANS THAT IT'S TIME FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE."
BUT HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING?
WAITING.
WAITING.
WAITING.
KLANG!


KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

WAITING FOR A SIGN.

THERE!
WE STAIN THE SKIES WITH OUR ARROGANCE!
SO, THIS IS WHAT YOU MEANT BY "GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATIONS," EH, MUIR?

BUT WHAT ELSE SHOULD I HAVE EXPECTED.
YOU KNOW, I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE HERE.
THAT IS YOUR TRUTH, SISTER HITRESE-- NOT THE TRUTH.

WE ALL HAVE TO BE HERE.
WE ALL HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO ENDURE.

UH-OH, QUOTING SCRIPTURE. WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW.
MS. KARTHA, PLEASE, DON'T BE DISRESPECTFUL. SIT DOWN AND LET'S TRY TO WORK THIS THING OUT.

NO, NO, NO. THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
I CAME TO TALK COMPROMISE BUT THE LEGATE HERE, HE CAME TO INVOKE DIVINE AUTHORITY. HOW CAN I CHALLENGE THAT?

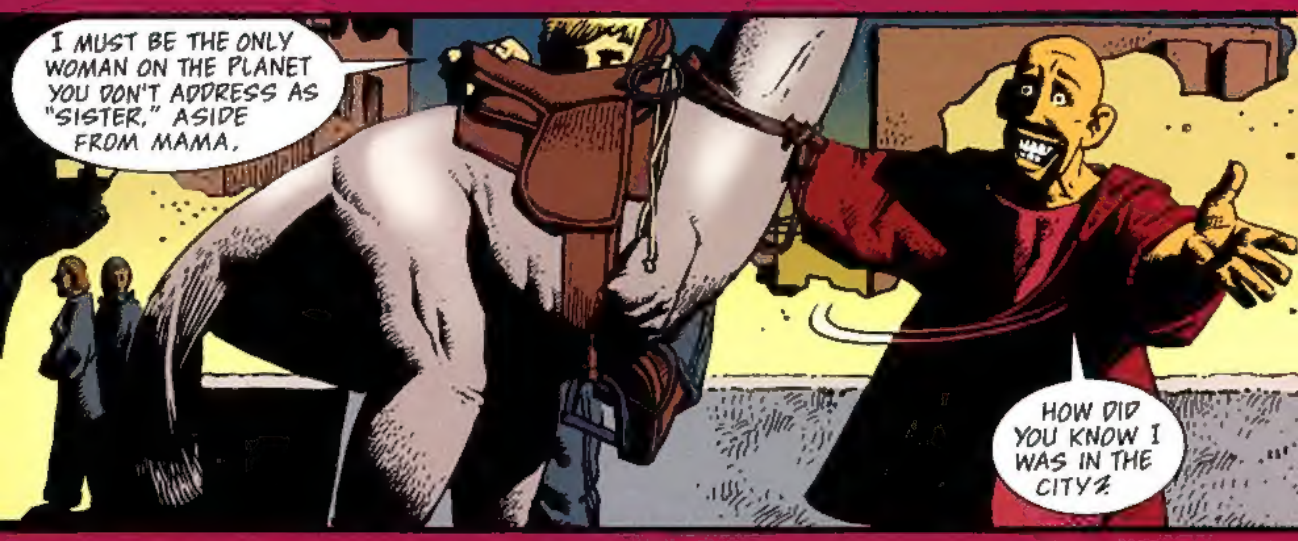
NOT TOO LONG AGO, MUIR SAID THAT STEAM POWER WOULD VISIT EVIL UPON THE CITY OF EMERSON.
THE PRICE WE'VE PAID FOR FOUR YEARS OF HEATED HOMES DURING THE WINTER AND ELECTRICAL LIGHTING IS ONE HOUSE FIRE.

AND NOT A DEVIL IN SIGHT.

AS FOR WORKING THINGS OUT, MAYOR, IT'LL WORK ITSELF OUT IN A FEW WEEKS, WHEN THE SALVAGE REFERENDUM COMES UP FOR A VOTE.

AND IF IT PASSES, LEGATE, I'LL WANT THAT MAP.

THE WATERS RUN BITTER AND THE AIR STINGS OUR EYES. THESE ARE THE SIGNS AND WE OURSELVES HAVE MADE THEM REAL.
WE HAVE OPENED THE DOOR FOR THE DARK ONE.
AND I SEEN HIM! THE DARK ONE!!
OR I HEARD 'BOUT HIM. A MONSTER LIKE FROM HELL.
FIRST, HE TAKES YOUR SOUL, THEN KILL YOU, AND DON' STOP KILLIN'. DON' NEVER STOP.
HE COMIN'! HE COMIN'!
ONE IN EVERY CROWD-- OR IS IT TWO?
RACHEL?!

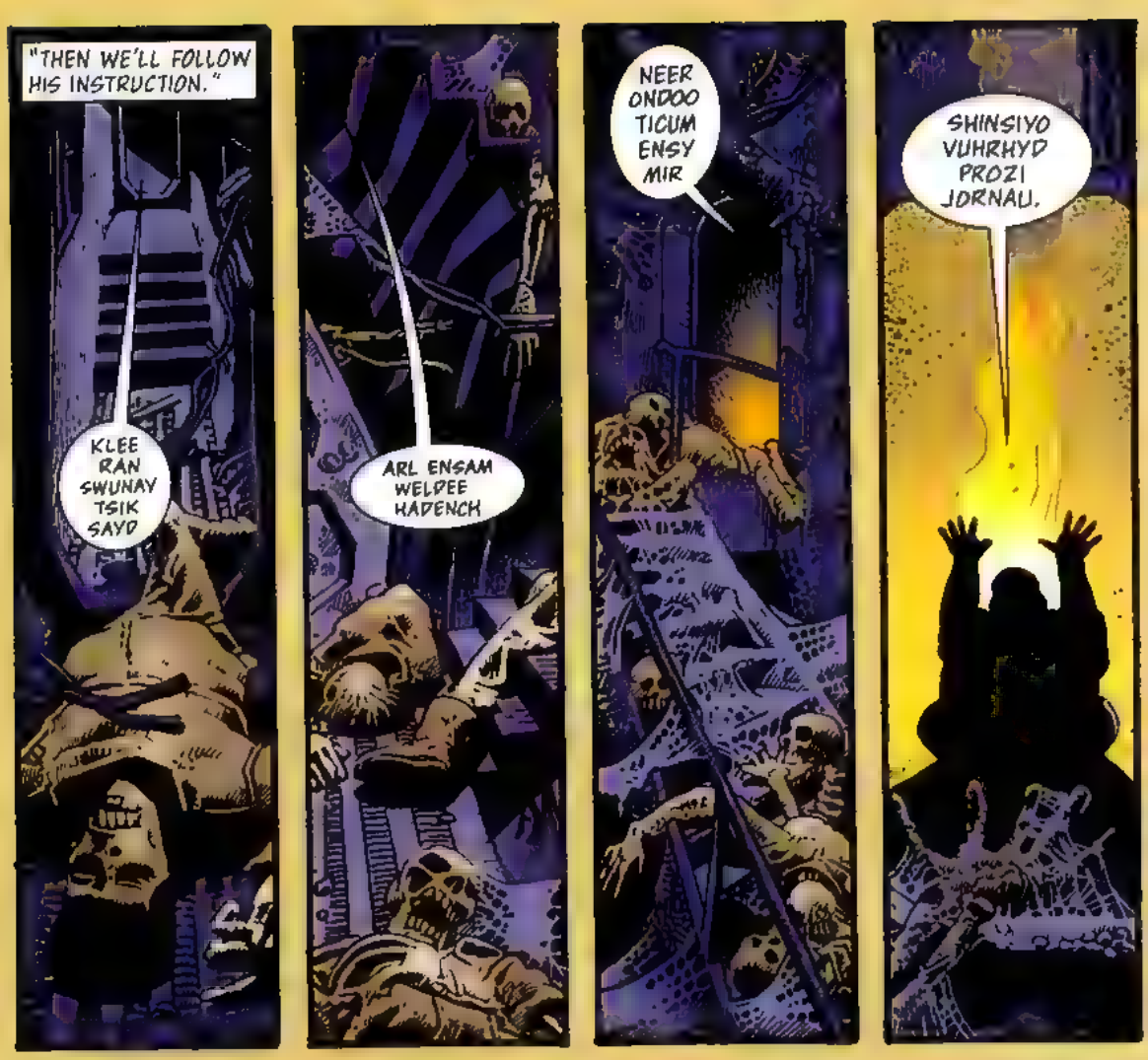

I MUST BE THE ONLY WOMAN ON THE PLANET YOU DON'T ADDRESS AS "SISTER," ASIDE FROM MAMA.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS IN THE CITY?

I DIDN'T. I CAME OVER TO BREAK UP THE RABBLE.
BUT OLD RURIK TOOK CARE OF THAT FOR ME, SO I WON'T HAVE TO ARREST YOU--TODAY.
OH, NOW DON'T START.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT, *TOCH*, BECAUSE *YOU'RE* THE ONE DOING THE PREACHING.
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO LEAVE THE *LEGATE-SHIP*.

I WAS WRONG TO EVER DOUBT IN *FIRST-FATHER*, RACHEL.
NOW I KNOW I WAS WRONG.

SO I WON'T WATCH MOTHER TERRA BE POISONED AND NOT SPEAK.
HAVE YOU SEEN THE LAKE BY KARTHA'S SMELTING PLANT? THE FISH KILLS? THE NEEDLESS HAVOC HAS BEGUN.
YOU SEE, THIS IS THE PROBLEM. YOUR DOGMA OF ABSOLUTES.
I DON'T WANT THE ENVIRONMENT RUINED, NOBODY DOES. EMERSON IS OUR HOME.
NEWCO
YOU SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, SISTER RACHEL, BUT YOU DO NOT LIVE THE LIFE.
IF YOU COULD ONLY HEAR THE RUMBLINGS OF AN AVALANCHE, AS DO I.
LEGATE MUIR, I DIDN'T--
BROTHER TOCH, YOU AND I FOR *THE REFUGE*.
FIRSTFATHER WILL WANT TO HEAR THE WORDS OF THE CONFERENCE.


"THEN WE'LL FOLLOW HIS INSTRUCTION."
KLEE RAN SWUNAY TSIK SAYD
ARL ENSAM WELDEE HADENCH
NEER ONDOO TICUM ENSY MIR
SHINSIYO VUHRHYD PROZI JORNAU.

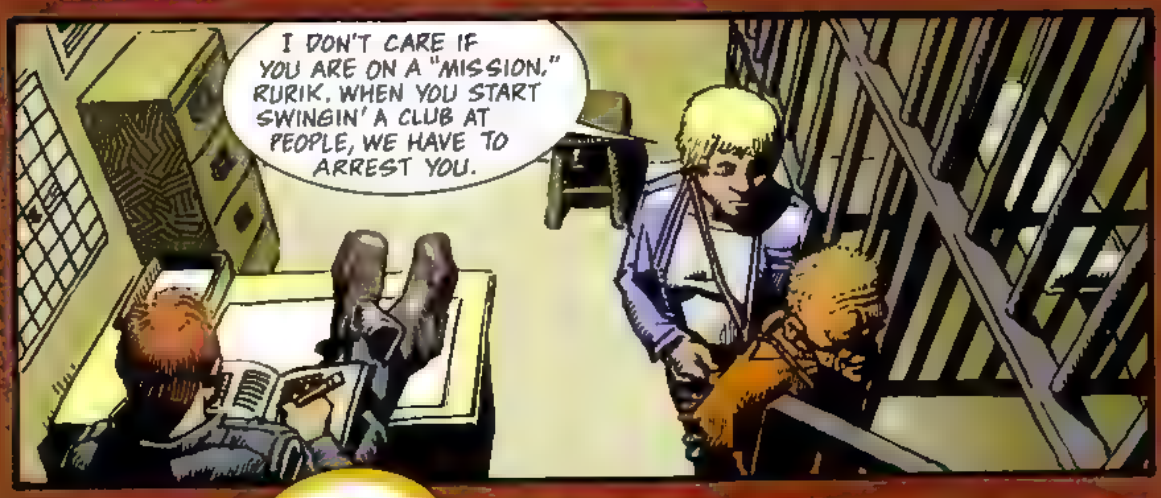
SO HAS *FIRSTFATHER* TAUGHT ME.
LEGATE MUIR, I'M AFRAID.
I--I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.

I HAVE FEAR AS WELL, BUT MY WORDS TO YOUR SISTER TODAY CUT MY OWN SPIRIT.
WE SHAKE OUR FISTS AND SHOUT, BUT WHAT DO WE DO? MUST WE SEE OUR FIRST SILENT SPRING BEFORE ACTING?
BUT WHY ME? WHY NOT ONE OF THE OTHERS?

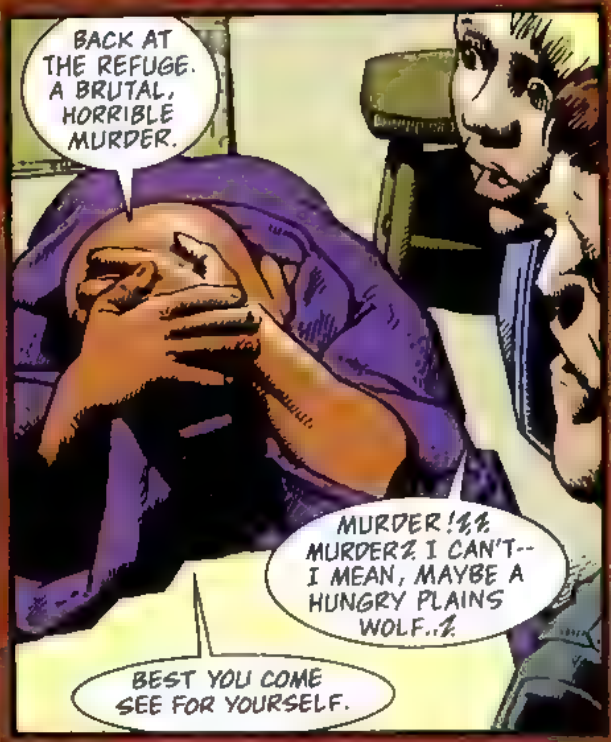
THE OTHERS HAVE NOT SEEN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN, KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW.
YOU ARE CHOSEN FOR THIS MOMENT. WILL YOU ACCEPT THE HONOR?

..IN..IN THE NAME OF FIRST-FATHER..
I ACCEPT

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY BROTHERS OJVIND AND WALD DIDN'T ROUSE US FOR BAKING DUTY
MAYBE THE WOOD SUPPLY WAS DEPLETED.
AND THEY WENT OUT TO CHOP WOOD?. AT MIDNIGHT?. BETTER TO HAVE--
BROTHER, LOOK!


I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE ON A "MISSION," RURIK. WHEN YOU START SWINGIN' A CLUB AT PEOPLE, WE HAVE TO ARREST YOU.

A BROTHER HAS BEEN SLAIN!
WH-WHAT?


BACK AT THE REFUGE. A BRUTAL, HORRIBLE MURDER.
MURDER!?? MURDER? I CAN'T-- I MEAN, MAYBE A HUNGRY PLAINS WOLF..?
BEST YOU COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.

YEAH. NEWCOMEN, TAKE A COUPLE OF GRUNTS OUT TO THE REFUGE.
CAPTAIN, I'VE NEVER INVESTIGATED A MURDER SCENE BEFORE.

WELL, SERGEANT, THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

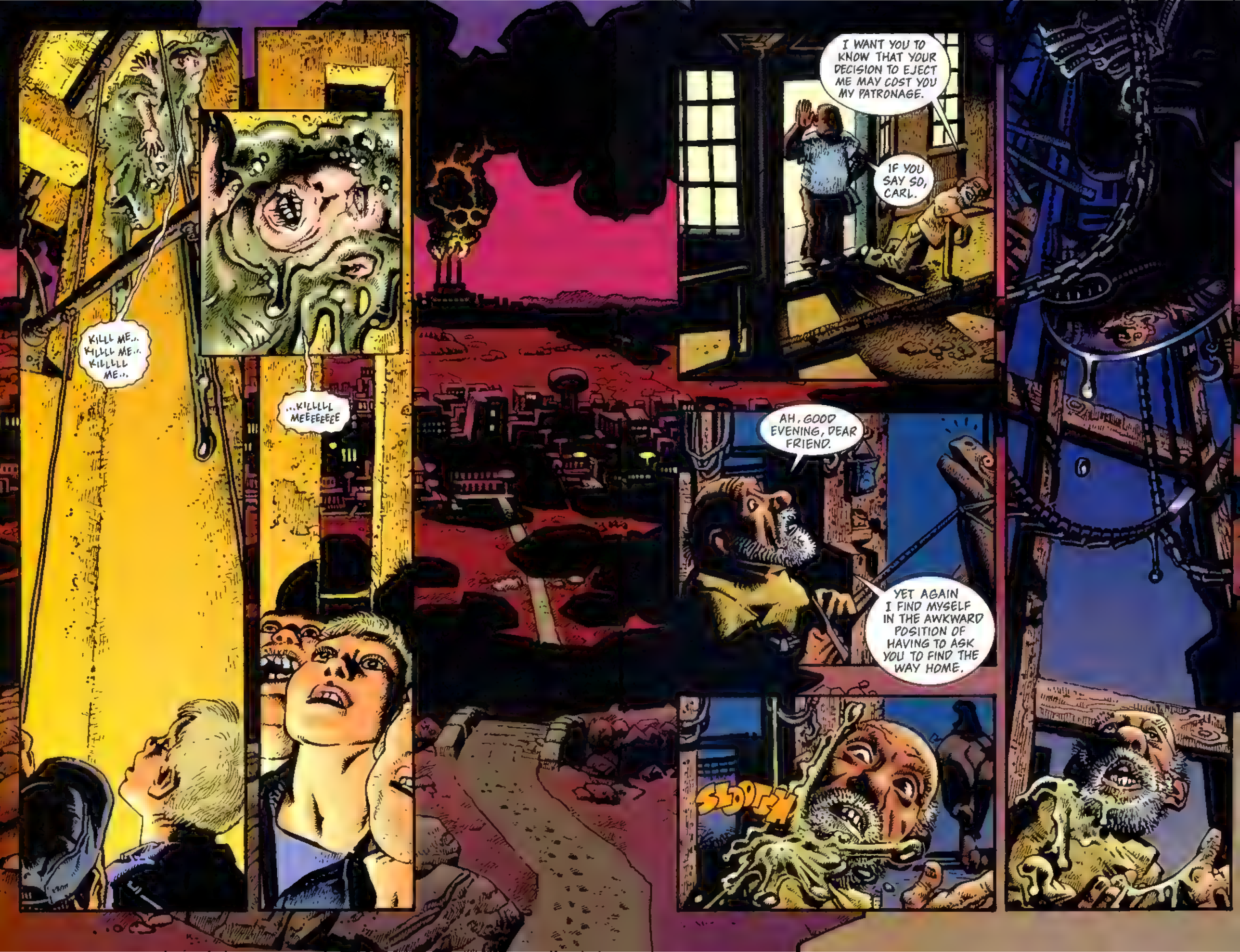
WE *THINK* IT'S BROTHER WALD. HE WAS TO HAVE ROUSED US TO RELIEVE HIM ON BAKING DUTY.

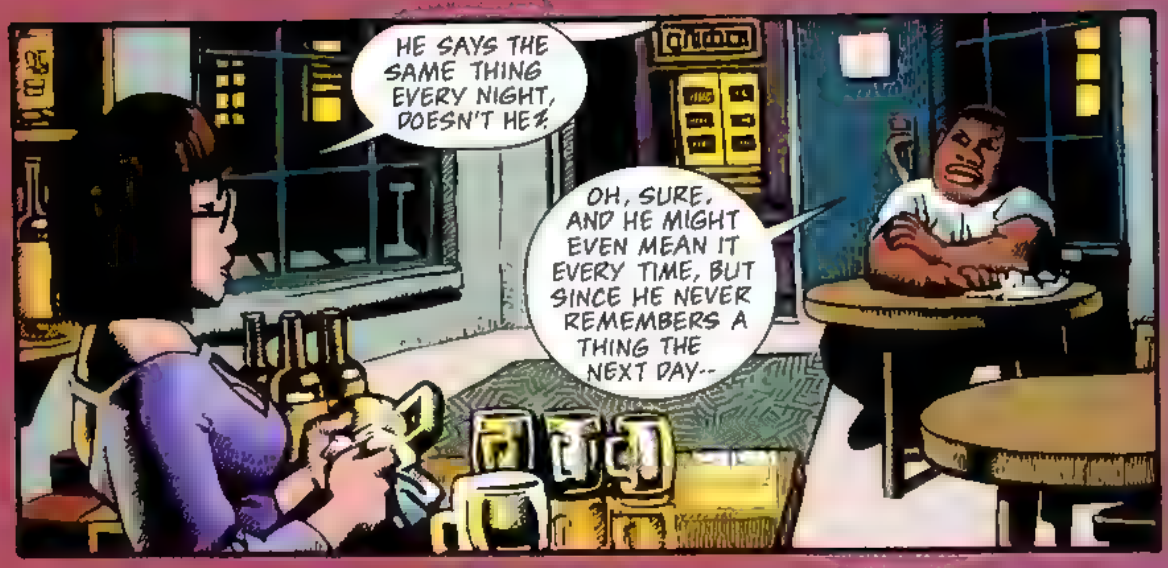
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT'S A MURDER? THOSE LOOK AS IF THEY'D ALMOST *HAVE* TO BE CLAW MARKS.
BUT WE HEARD NO SCREAMS. NONE. AND BROTHER OJVIND IS MISSING. GONE WITHOUT A TRACE.

WELL, HE'S OUR FIRST SUSPECT THEN--I GUESS.
I'D LIKE SOMEONE TO CHECK ON MY BROTHER, TOCH, BUT FIRST, LET'S GO HAVE A WORD WITH LEGATE MUIR.

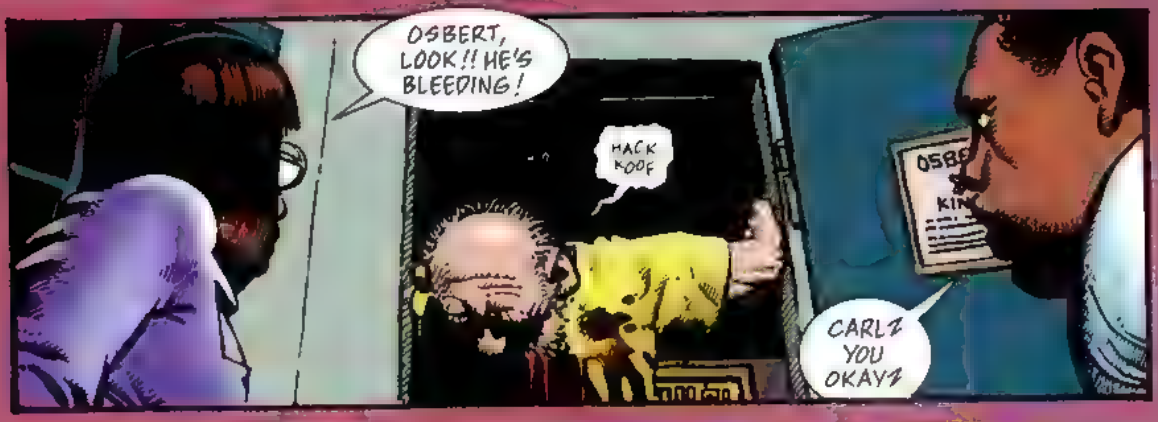
LEGATE MUIR IS IN COUNSEL WITH *FIRSTFATHER*.
HE *MUST* NOT BE DISTURBED.
PARDON ME?

LOOK, *YOU* WERE THE ONES WHO CAME SCREAMING MURDER!
SERGEANT NEWCOMEN! TURNER FOUND SOMETHING IN THE STEEPLE!

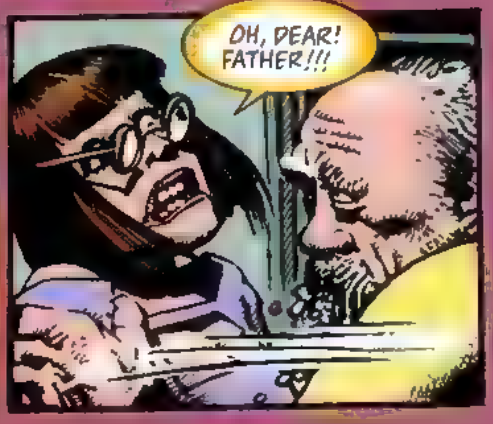

KILL ME... KILLL ME... KILLLL ME...
...KILLLL MEEEEEEEE
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR DECISION TO EJECT ME MAY COST YOU MY PATRONAGE.
IF YOU SAY SO, CARL.
AH, GOOD EVENING, DEAR FRIEND.
YET AGAIN I FIND MYSELF IN THE AWKWARD POSITION OF HAVING TO ASK YOU TO FIND THE WAY HOME.
SLOOSH


HE SAYS THE SAME THING EVERY NIGHT, DOESN'T HE?
OH, SURE. AND HE MIGHT EVEN MEAN IT EVERY TIME, BUT SINCE HE NEVER REMEMBERS A THING THE NEXT DAY--

EH?? OH, COME ON NOW, CARL. WE'RE CLOSED. NO MORE KIDDING AROUND

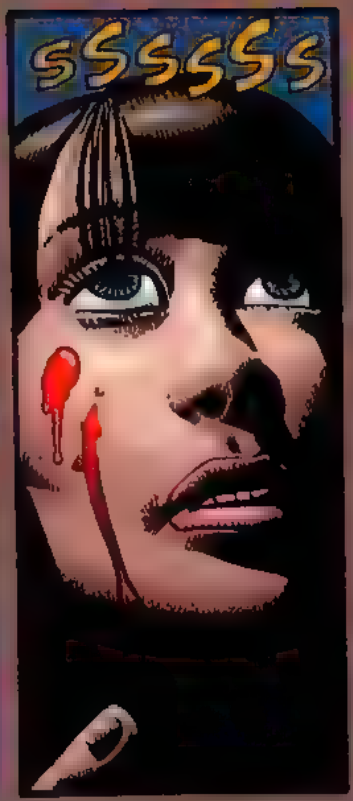

OSBERT, LOOK!! HE'S BLEEDING!
HACK KOOF
CARL? YOU OKAY?

HHHH AAHH HHH gurggle!


OH, DEAR! FATHER!!!

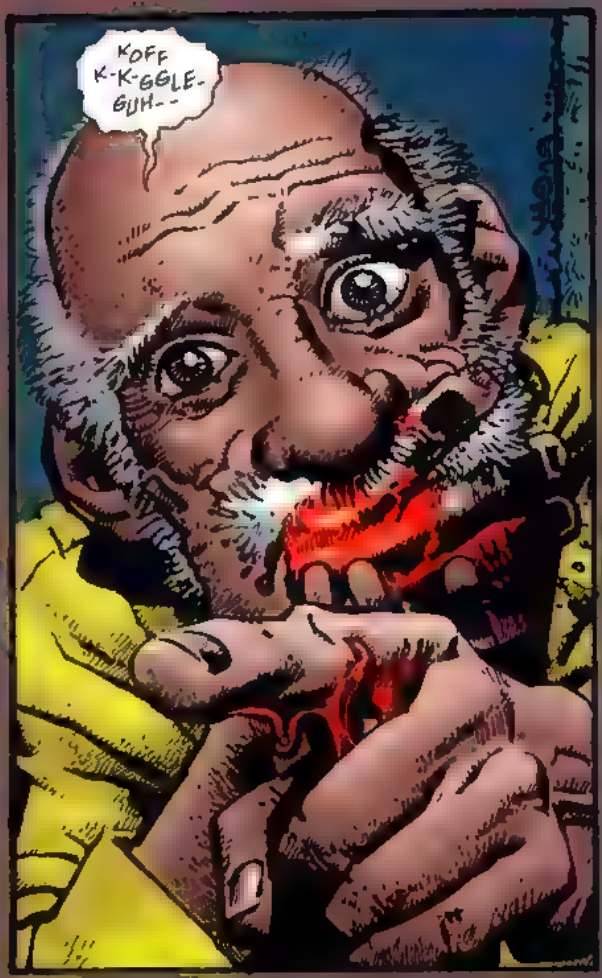
GET HIM INSIDE! I'LL GET THE DOOR.
NOOOOOOO!
SPUF!
AHHH! AHHH! KINA!
PLEASE, PLEASE, DON'T LET GO. DON'T.
KINA, PLEASE.
THE BLOOD... I CAN'T... I..
P-P-PLEASE.
PLEASE.
SLWIPP!
KIIINAAAA

OS..OSBERTZ


SSSSSS

SSSSSS

SLAM!


KOFF
K-K-GGLE-
GUH--

GUH-GO...GO...

GO... GO-KOFF-SQUACH

KOFF GURGGLE

THIS ISN'T HAPPENING TO ME! THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!

THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!

CHASH!
GUH GUH GUH!!!
EEEEEEE!!!

SISTER RACHEL, I UNDERSTAND YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO ME.

IT IS TIMES SUCH AS THIS THAT I FIND *HIS* COUNSEL MOST VALUABLE.
LEGATE MUIR, YOU'VE KEPT US WAITING FOR ALMOST AN HOUR. I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE COOPERATION FROM YOU ON THIS CASE.

SISTER, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO YOUR TONE--
MAYBE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER, LEGATE!
ONE MAN HAS BEEN KILLED INSIDE REFUGE WALLS, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ANOTHER.

FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SO, DEAR SISTER, BUT IT IS *YOU* WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS MATTER.
YOU SEE, I HAVE JUST HAD WORDS WITH *FIRSTFATHER*, AND HE ASSURES ME--

"--THE DARK NIGHT OF EXTINCTION IS NEAR."